

BIG FAT £6M 'BRIBE' TO END GYPSY CAMP

GYPSIES demanded a giant £6MILLION hand-out to leave an illegal camp.

They made the outrageous demand in showdown talks with council chiefs in a PUB.

Gypsy leader Richard Sheridan, 42, asked for £62,500 for each of 96 families living at the Dale Farm site in Crays Hill, Essex — now at the centre of an eviction

By GARY O'SHEA

battle. In return, he promised to sign over the £120,000 site to the council and lead the travellers to either Birmingham or Scotland.

He made his offer in the Essex boozer after learning the council and police's "worst case scenario" eviction bill was £18million. It is believed the council were legally advised that they could offer only

the market rate for the land. The demand was turned down after further meetings in the summer.

Bailiffs are set to begin evictions on September 19. Anarchist groups have set up camp at the site and are preparing for a showdown.

Sheridan said last night: "I did ask £6million but I was trying to save taxpayers £12million. They wouldn't pay me a penny. Now they're saying I tried to black-mail them, which isn't the case."

Basildon Council leader Tony Ball said: "Representatives offered to sell their land hugely above market value. I felt I should consider any legal solutions to avoid a forced clearance. But it was unacceptable to enter any agreement where travellers effectively profited from breaking the law."

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Offer . . Richard Sheridan



Dick Turpin faces court

A MAN named Dick Turpin is due in court after claiming a dog chewed off his electronic tag.

The 19-year-old namesake of the 18th century highwayman was accused of robbery in last month's London riots and bailed with the tag.

But he was nicked in Llanelli, South Wales, without it. Town magistrates were told his pal's dog had chewed it off while he was wearing cropped trousers.

Turpin will face London's Woolwich Crown Court later this week.

OAKY CROAKY

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